



RESTORATION  
CHURCH OF SANFORD

## Baptism Testimony

### What the Bible Says about Baptism?

Baptism is a symbol of Christ's saving work for the one being baptized. Professor of historical theology at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Thomas J. Nettles, provides this helpful definition: "Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in Jesus Christ performed once as the initiation of such a believer into a community of believers, the church." The strongest support for this view is a plain reading of the narrative passages of Scripture. Every single account of baptism in Scripture is applied to someone who has heard the message of the gospel and professed faith before being baptized. As Nettles points out, "The only ones who receive baptism are those who hear the gospel and believe. We can point to no person who, when he or she received baptism, was not fully instructed in the gospel material concerning the life, death, and resurrection of Christ." Because baptism follows regeneration and faith, it is a symbol of what Christ has already done in the life of the believer. Ware says, "The sign of baptism, it appears from all of the evidence that the New Testament affords us, is designed by God as a sign of the reality of union with Christ by faith experienced in the life of the one who has believed in Christ alone for salvation."

We are justified by faith — not by baptism. And yet, those who are justified by faith are commanded to proclaim their salvation by being baptized. In baptism we obey the great and final commission given by our Lord: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).

*Prepared by Tim Challies & Joey Schwartz*

**Baptism Scripture:** Acts 2:38, 41; 8:12, 38, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Colossians 2:12, Matthew 3:16, Romans 6:3-7, 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, Galatians 3:26-27, 1 Peter 3:21, Acts 22:16; 1 Corinthians 6:11

## **PREPARATION**

We're sure that you have been thinking about what you want to say in your baptism testimony.

The Bible instructs us as Christians to be prepared to clearly share about Christ being your personal Lord and Savior.

*But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. (1 Peter 3:15a)*

We know it can seem intimidating, but we hope that it will be a fun and exciting time for you

as well. Below is a list of things that we hope will be helpful for you as you think of what you want to say.

## **LENGTH**

Keep it around 250-300 words when written out fully.

Make sure you time yourself as you practice saying it from memory if possible. It needs to be no longer than 1 minute to 1 minute 30 seconds. I know this may seem like a very short amount of time but you will be amazed at how much you can share in that time frame!

## **OUTLINE SUGGESTION**

1. Introduce yourself with your first and last name
2. Tell a few sentences about your life before accepting Christ
3. Explain how and when you accepted Christ as your personal Savior
4. Tell a few sentences about how He has affected your life since then
5. Optional, thank one or two people who have helped you in your walk
6. Finish with your declaration of faith (for example, "I'm here today to let you know that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior." or "I'm excited to be baptized and share with all of you that I love Jesus, my Church and that Jesus is my Lord and my Savior.")

## **PLEASE BE CLEAR ABOUT YOUR SALVATION**

Your walk with Christ is definitely a process, but you need to be able to express a point in time that you recognized that you are a sinner in need of a Savior. You don't have to know the exact date and time, but there was a point when you repented of yours and by God's grace put your faith in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and eternal life. The ordinance of baptism is a time to display and clearly communicate how one is born again. This is the reason your salvation must be very clear.

## **TESTIMONY TIPS**

Our desire is that you are able to be as clear as possible about who Christ is and what baptism is all about. It is most helpful for those listening to focus on the main things.

Following these tips can help:

1. Not too much detail about drug use, pornography, abortion, sex or divorce.
  2. Please don't talk about the sins of someone else.
  3. Please do not mention previous denominations.
  4. Feel free to mention if you were in a previous religion (Mormon, Buddhist, Jehovah's Witness, Jewish, etc.)
  5. Please do not mention your infant christening. Our focus is what God has been doing to bring you to the point you are at today, and why you want to be baptized now.
  6. Please do not say that you have "always been a Christian". This gives the idea that it is something that you can inherit. Becoming a Christian is about making the decision to accept Christ's death on the cross as payment for your sin, not just growing up in a Christian home.
  7. PLEASE PRACTICE, BUT BE OPEN TO RECEIVE INPUT.
- We look forward to walking through the baptism process with you!